

Knowledge of smallholder dairy producers towards bovine brucellosis in Bihar, India

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Introduction

Bovine brucellosis is endemic in India and imposes major health and livelihood burdens. In Bihar, India there is no state-run brucellosis control programme. Therefore, it is important to design an effective producers' education programme to reduce transmission of the diseases in people and animals. However, their perspective of the disease is not well understood and therefore, a study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of smallholder dairy producers in the state.

Methods

- Cross-sectional survey of 3 districts of Bihar, India in autumn 2015. In each district, 1 rural and 1 urban area selected, from each 38-44 households: in total, 292 households (HH).
- All selected HH were interviewed using a structured questionnaire



Results

- Only 6% of the producers were aware about brucellosis
- Less than 3% of the producers were aware about the symptoms of brucellosis.
- Less than 2% of the producers reported that brucellosis could be transmitted to human.
- 2% of the producers knew it could be transmitted from animal to animal.
- 53% of the producers threw away an aborted foetus; 44% buried the aborted foetus.
- 48% producers used to take bath after disposal of aborted materials, 40% washed hands with soap and 10% washed clothes.
- No producer wore gloves during disposing of aborted materials.
- 98% of the producers usually boil milk before consumption.
- 15% producers sometimes consume raw milk and 38% consume raw cottage milk products.

Conclusion

Knowledge about brucellosis is very scarce, almost negligible among smallholder dairy producers in Bihar. Therefore, a customised education programme may be designed and implemented among the dairy producers to make them aware about the disease. More participatory research will be required to understand the attributes that determine the prevailing knowledge, attitude and practices and factors that might motivate dairy producers to change.

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The project was funded by USDA & the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish



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